FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 DECEMBER 1983

Lebanon

Military Situation — The Lebanese Army tightened its control over the Sabra and Shatila camps and a new cease-fire took effect on 26 December, the Army Command announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio following violent clashes between the Army and gunmen over Christmas. The fighting started when armed men from the southern suburb attacked Army units which had just taken over positions in the Shatila area vacated by the French contingent of the Multinational Force, according to a statement broadcast by the radio. Several cease-fire agreements collapsed as the fighting raged and "dozens" of people were killed or injured in shelling which hit residential areas, the radio said. Security sources cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio estimated that over 50 people were killed and around 100 were wounded. Three Italian soldiers were injured in the crossfire, ANSA noted. In the Al-Kharrub district south of the capital Druze and Christian militiamen exchanged artillery fire, according to Beirut radio.

Meanwhile, three IDF soldiers were wounded in an ambush near Lake Al-Qir'awn at the southern end of the Al-Biqa' valley, Jerusalem television announced on 26 December. Earlier, Jerusalem radio reported that the IDF moved its command offices in Sidon to Kafr Falus in the outskirts. The building used hitherto will be returned to the Lebanese Government.

Diplomacy — Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil on 26 December to discuss the security situation and a new security plan aimed at consolidating the cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. The plan, formulated by Saudi envoy Rafiq al-Hariri, calls for disengagement of the warring factions, neutralization of the airport, and withdrawal of Phalangist militia forces from the south and other areas, according to Radio Monte Carlo and QNA.

Citing sources in Amman, Radio Monte Carlo also reported that the Saudi, Syrian, and Lebanese foreign ministers will meet in Riyadh 7 January to discuss reconvening of the National Dialogue Conference. However, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said in Damascus that he is doubtful whether the renewal of the dialogue will be worthwhile, according to the radio.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held talks with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in San'a' on 26 December after disembarking with his fighters at the north Yemeni port of Al-Hudaydah, San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported. Meanwhile, members of the PLO's Military Council arrived in the YAR to meet under 'Arafat's chairmanship, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted. 'Arafat is expected to make a short Arab tour before proceeding to Tunis, according to PLO sources cited by the Amman paper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*. Earlier, in the wake of 'Arafat's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the Fatah Central Committee sent him an urgent request to go to Tunis for an extraordinary Fatah Central Committee meeting, KUNA noted.

'Arafat expressed satisfaction with the results of his meeting with Mubarak and described his visit to Cairo as a "new transformation" in the march of the Palestinian issue, according to MENA. He told the Saudi paper *AL-YAWM* that the Palestinians need a government-in-exile to further their cause and said the issue will be discussed at the next PNC meeting, scheduled for February 1984, Cairo radio reported.

PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al-Wazir, in a statement broadcast by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio after his arrival in Algiers, confirmed that a PNC meeting is planned for early next year after meetings of the Fatah Central Committee, the PLO Executive Committee, and the PLO Central Council. As for 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak, Al-Wazir said the Syrian regime's "crime" against the PLO "drove Brother Abu Ammar to this step," and he expressed support for the Fatah Central Committee statement on the meeting. The Fatah statement, as reported by KUNA, said the Central Committee was "surprised" by 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak "without consulting the PLO legitimate institutions," adding that it will take measures to guarantee adherence to PNC resolutions and hold accountable anyone who deviates from them. Although these remarks were not included in the "text" of the statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, both versions stressed that only "legitimate" PLO institutions have the right to judge and decide on 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and criticized those who were quick to condemn 'Arafat while remaining silent over the "treason" of the Fatah dissidents and their supporters. Commentaries by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio expressed support for 'Arafat's initiative to rectify the "historical error" of isolating Egypt and bitterly criticized PFLP Secretary General George Habash's "prearranged" reaction to the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting and his silence over Syrian actions against the Palestinians.

In Damascus, Habash told a press conference that 'Arafat has become the "Palestinian As-Sadat" and reaffirmed his demand for 'Arafat's removal from the PLO leadership, Damascus radio reported. PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, PLO spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, DFLP deputy leader Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and other Palestinian dissident and pro-Syrian leaders likewise condemned 'Arafat's visit in interviews on Damascus television. A statement issued by 31 of the 48 PNC members in Jordan also condemned 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak, according to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*.

Among other Arab reaction to the 'Arafat-Mubarak talks, JANA reported that Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi condemned 'Arafat's action while Damascus radio warned 'Arafat in a commentary that his "day of punishment" is not far away. On the other hand, an "authoritative" Saudi source cited by Riyadh television stressed that the PLO has "absolute freedom to undertake its intrinsic decisions." Avoiding direct comment on the visit, the Saudi statement noted that the PLO's role as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians is in accordance with Arab summit conference and PNC resolutions. Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said Egypt will hold further contacts with the Palestinians and will encourage them to resume the negotiations with Jordan, MENA reported.

Syria

Al-Asad Interview — Syria wants to settle its problems with the United States and hopes that the latter will again "conduct itself responsibly as a superpower" in order to reduce the likelihood of war and help remove the Israelis from Lebanon, President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed in an interview with the French weekly *LE POINT* read over Damascus television on 24 December. While criticizing France's military involvement in Lebanon alongside the United States, Al-Asad said he is optimistic about the future of Franco-Syrian relations.

As for his personal health, the Syrian leader said he is recuperating from "several days of fatigue" brought on by overwork and hopes to return to regular work soon. Reports that he has established a collective leadership of party and government officials to run the country are "just rumors," he added.

Jackson Visit — Jesse Jackson will arrive in Damascus at the end of this week on an official visit at the invitation of the Syrian Government, QNA reported citing an official Foreign Ministry source. Jackson will meet with Al-Asad and hold talks with Foreign Minister Khaddam on the release of the captured U.S. pilot, QNA added.

Israel

Israel was "angered" by U.S. support for the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was "almost personally offended" by the U.S. position, IDF Radio stated on 25 December. Meanwhile, Shamir told *YEDIO'OT AHARONOT* that the U.S. Administration is wrong to think the meeting will help promote President Reagan's peace plan.

When asked in a recent Vienna television interview whether Israel might launch a preemptive military strike to counter Syria's rearmament program, Shamir said he "cannot say" what Israel will or will not do, but he hoped that "it will not be necessary" to go to war with Syria.

Egypt-Israel

Egypt has complained to Israel over a recent incident in which an Egyptian youth was arrested by the Israeli Authorities in Elat and then committed suicide, MENA reported. Egypt notified the Israelis that their failure to inform the Egyptian Consulate in Elat of the youth's arrest was a breach of the bilateral police agreement. An Israeli police spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio said Egypt's complaints were unfounded.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi-Saudi Talks — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah in Baghdad on 25 December for talks on Arab affairs and bilateral relations, Baghdad radio reported.

Libya on Jordan-Egypt Agreement — Libya has protested to Jordan over the latter's recent economic agreement with Egypt, Tripoli radio noted. The Libyans view the agreement as a violation of the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq launched a missile attack on Masjed Soleyman on 25 December, killing 18 people and injuring 92 others, according to Tehran radio. The attack came after an Iraqi military spokesman warned Iran in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio that Iraq would strike "selected targets" deep inside Iran in retaliation for the latter's continued shelling of Iraqi border villages.

In another development, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that Iranian air defenses shot down an Iranian plane by mistake on 25 December.

Iran

Relations With France — The Foreign Ministry ordered the expulsion of three French diplomats in response for the deportation of three Iranian diplomats and a number of students from France, Tehran radio reported on 25 December. Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in an interview with the radio, accused the French authorities of "unethical" and "even criminal" behavior toward the Iranian deportees and acknowledged that relations with France have reached "their lowest ebb."

Ba'labakk Raid — The Syrians gave Iranian forces in Ba'labakk "a little" support during the 21 December Israeli air raid in which one Iranian was killed and several others were injured, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated during a 23 December sermon broadcast by Tehran radio.

Afghanistan

A clandestine Afghan resistance radio began broadcasting on short wave bands from a transmitting station in eastern Afghanistan, according to KUNA and Paris radio reports. The new station is expected to broadcast 30 minutes each evening on 2520 Khz, KUNA said.

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'Pirate' Radio Station Transmits First Broadcast

LD260854 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] A pirate radio station has started up in Afghanistan on the fourth anniversary of the entry of Soviet troops into that country. The first broadcast on shortwave was transmitted last night. The transmitter can reach the whole of Afghan territory, and it is reported to be located at an altitude of 3,000 meters in the mountains in eastern Afghanistan. Two French technicians helped the Afghan rebels to set up the transmitter and broadcast the first program.

In principle, the new radio station will broadcast each day for half an hour in the evening, after the very widely listened-to programs of the BBC and before the main news bulletin of Radio Kabul, the government station.

KUNA Report

LD261048 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0936 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, 26 Dec (KUNA) — It was announced here today that the Afghan resistance yesterday relayed its first radio broadcast on shortwave bands at local level, 4 years after the entry of Soviet troops to their country.

A reliable source stated that the 500 watt transmitting station has been set up at a hight of 200 meters in the eastern Afghan heights, transmitting on a short wave band of 2520 kilocycles. The station is guarded by Afghan rebels. The station is expected to transmit for 30 minutes every evening after the BBC programs in Pashto and Persian.

AIP Claims 52,070 Soviets Killed Since 1979

BK231757 Hong Kong AFP in English 1733 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 23 (AFP) — The pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) today claimed that more than 52,000 Soviet soldiers, military advisors and civilian experts were killed in Afghanistan since the Soviet invasion five years ago. The agency said 52,070 Soviets were killed between the first Marxist coup in Afghanistan on April 27, 1979, and last October 16.

An AIP communique on the fifth anniversary of the Soviet intervention said Afghan rebels also destroyed or damaged 3,000 Soviet tanks and military vehicles and 200 war planes, 80 of them while they were on the ground. The figures, AIP said, were obtained from guerrilla sources in "Afghan Government circles."

The Soviets have never reported their losses, but Western diplomats believe their casualities since the December 1979 invasion are between 15,000 and 20,000 men.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Capture Town

BK260844 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Afghan mujahidin captured the Orgun garrison town in Paktia Province last Monday after a fierce battle, according to reports. The mujahidin besieged the town for several months. They also captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

U.S. Accused of 'Warmongering Interference'

LD252208 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The DRA National Fatherland Front (NFF) once again exposed the warmongering interference and savage crimes of imperialism and reaction, headed by the U.S. criminal imperialism, in the internal affairs of our beloved homeland, revolutionary Afghanistan, at a press conference today and vigorously condemned this interference in a resolution.

This conference, convened by the NFF Central Council at the Storay Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was attended by representatives of the NFF, DRA Department of Islamic Affairs, BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and two DRA social figures. They answered journalists' questions concerning the interference of imperialism and reaction in Afghan domestic affairs.

Also in the conference, one of our compatriots, who has recently returned from Iran; two of our other deceived compatriots who have joined our revolutionary state; and two counterrevolutionary elements who were captured by the Armed Forces, took part and expressed views on the blatant interference of U.S. imperialism and its collaborators, and the reaction of the region in the internal affairs of our country. The crimes of the counterrevolutionary bands who, at the instigation of imperialism and reaction, have carried out activities against their homeland were discussed in a question and answer session with journalists.

According to a BAKHTAR agency reporter, the press conference was attended by reporters and representatives of dailies and publicity departments at home and foreign journalists and press and cultural attaches of friendly countries in Kabul, who put forward their questions in all areas in a free and democratic atmosphere. Their questions were satisfactoryily answered.

At the beginning of this press conference, Bareq Shafi, first deputy of the NFF Central Council, read an announcement by the DRA NFF and in conclusion asked the journalists and reporters to put forward their questions in a free and democratic atmosphere.

First, a BAKHTAR agency correspondent asked a question in connection with the diversity of interference of imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, in the internal affairs of our country. In reply to his question, Bareq Shafi gave detailed explanations, and by producing documents and credible figures and examples,

exposed the extensive and wide interference of U.S. imperialism in the DRA's internal affairs.

In part of his explanation, he said: The interference of imperialism in the internal affairs of our country as an official policy of the United States has wide dimensions. The training, equipping, and arming of the criminal counterrevolutionary bands inside and outside the country to a bloody undeclared war against our country, the extensive and intensive propaganda war throughout the world and in the region against the Afghan revolution, and the infiltration of U.S. spies inside our country are all realities and facts of U.S. imperialistic interference in the internal affairs of our country.

He added: Facts show that at this moment in Pakistan, which has been transformed into a base of Afghan counterrevolutionaries by U.S. imperialism, more than 100 military camps exist where the sold-out Afghan counterrevolutionary elements are trained by U.S., British, Egyptian, Chinese, Saudi Arabian, and Pakistani instructors and are infiltrated to our country for murder, destruction, plunder, the killing of children and women; the destruction of public establishments, schools, hospitals; and are equipped with the most dangerous weapons which have been put at their disposal by the U.S. imperialism and its NATO collaborators.

He added: The Americans not only give weapons and money to the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, but with political pretexts and the simultaneous visits of their representatives from Washington, London, Beijing, and Islamabad they wanted, on the one hand, to bring (?together) the Afghan counterrevolutionaries and, on the other, to create and strengthen the morals of these counterrevolutionaries. This shows to the people of the world that the Afghan counterrevolutionaries are not alone in destruction and sabotage against Afghanistan. The tours of Shultz, Weinberger, Brezinski, Thatcher, the British prime minister, Huang Hua, the Chinese minister of foreign affairs, to Islamabad and their visits to the nests of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries are all manifestations of this fact.

Bareq Shaf'i concluded: One of the examples of the interference of U.S. imperialism in the internal affairs of our country is the attacks on the border establishments of Afghanistan in Towr Kham, which were carried out by the agents and sold-out bands under the firepower of Pakistani artillery. This is by itself a blatant interference by U.S. imperialism in the internal affairs of our country.

AFP: Paper Says Soviet Diplomats Asked To Leave

BK240701 Hong Kong AFP in English 0637 GMT 24 Dec 83

[All names as received]

[Excerpt] Dhaka. Dec 24 (AFP) — Bangladesh authorities have asked Moscow to withdraw six of its diplomats posted here as early as possible, the leading Bengali newspaper *ITTEFAQ* reported today.

The daily said without quoting any sources that Soviet Ambassador Valentin Stepanov was called to the Foreign Office here Wednesday and handed a formal request containing the list of diplomats to be recalled.

The paper, known for its pro-western stand, however said that the Bangladesh Foreign Office had declined to make any comment on the report. It said specific charges had been drawn up against the six diplomats for involvement in "non-diplomatic activities."

When contacted, the Soviet ambassador advised the *ITTEFAQ* correspondent to discuss the matter with Bangladesh authorities, the report said.

ITTEFAQ said the six listed diplomats included councillor I.A. Krivogoez and first secretary E.M. Suchkin.

Mr Krivogoez, 51, was expelled from Athens in 1969 as third secretary and was later posted in Afghanistan from 1972 to (?1975). Suchkin was third secretary in New Delhi from 1971 to 1975. Both were identified as operatives of the GRU — Moscow's military intelligence — and the KGB respectively, the *ITTEFAQ* said quoting a story on the issue by the Hong Kong-based weekly *ASIA WEEK* last May.

In the wake of anti-government demonstrations late last month, *ITTEFAQ* already reported that the Dhaka Government had asked Moscow to cut the size of its embassy staff in Bangladesh by 50 percent and close down the Soviet Cultural Centre in Dhaka.

The demand had reportedly been prompted by the alleged involvement of Soviet Embassy personnel in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status.

The cultural centre is still closed but a spokesman of the centre in the Dhanmondi residential area after publication of the report on November 30 had claimed that the centre was under repair and renovation.

Soviets Depart

BK270509 Hong Kong AFP in English 0458 GMT 27 Dec 83

[All names as received]

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 27 (AFP) — Five of the six Soviet Diplomats ordered to leave the country by the Bangladesh Government left here last night by an AEROFLOT flight, official sources confirmed today, after being accused of non-diplomatic activites.

English daily *NEW NATION*, quoting competent sources, said another batch of nine Soviet Embassy officials will have to leave Bangladesh shortly.

Their departure came amid deteriorating relations between Dhaka and Moscow, according to diplomatic sources here.

In the wake of anti-government demonstrations here last month the Dhaka government was reported to have asked Moscow to trim its mission here, which is one of the largest in the country, with 36 accreditted diplomats here, and about 100 employees, and four diplomats in the port city of Chittagong.

Bangladesh, according diplomatic [as received] sources, has been trying for some years to persuade Moscow to reduce the huge strength of its missions in Bangladesh.

The five diplomats and their wives were among the 24 Soviet nationals who left Dhaka by the AEROFLOT flight.

Those that left were cousellor Eduard Mikhail Schtchoukin, counsellor secretary in charge of cultural section, Krivogouz Evan, first secretary for culture, Romash Kin, assistant attache Alexey Dedoy, and the consul-general in Chittagong, Grouchetui Gueorqui.

The issue came to limelight late last month when some newspapers reported that the Soviet ambassador was formally called to the Foreign Ministry to convey feeling of the government on activities of Soviet diplomats non-related to diplomacy.

An official list of six undesirable diplomats was handed over to the Soviet ambassador on December 21 asking for their immediate departure. The government also asked for the closure of the Soviet cultural centre in Dhaka.

The government's attitude on Soviet diplomats toughened after indications of their involvement in anti-government demonstrations in Dhaka on November 28, informed sources said. The government and Soviet Embassy here have remained tight-lipped on the issue since the beginning. A Foreign Office spokesman earlier after repeated queries had only said: "The matter is between the two friendly countries."

NEW NATION quoted competent sources as saying that here was an understanding between Bangladesh Government and Soviet Embassy that the withdrawal of the undesirable Soviet Embassy officials would be carried out quietly and in two phases.

Muhith Sworn In as Finance, Planning Minister

BK251005 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] A.M. Muhith has taken the oath today as a member of the Council of Ministers. The president and the chief martial law administrator had administered the swearing in ceremony at the (?cantonment).

Muhith was out of the country when the swearing-in ceremony of Council of Ministers took place after General Ershad had assumed the office of the president. As in the past, Muhith will be in charge of the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Final Results of By-elections Announced

BK260914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Communist Party of India candidate, Mr Bhupendra Singh, has won the by-election to the Bettiah parliamentary seat in Bihar. He defeated his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr Manoj Kumar Pandey, by over 11,000 votes. The result was declared this morning. The by-election was caused by the death of the former railway minister, Mr Kedar Pandey.

With this all the results in the by-elections held on Friday have been announced. The other two parliamentary seats went to the Congress-I and the Janata Party. Of the 11 assembly by-elections, Congress-I won 8, Lok Dal 2, and independent 1.

Parties Issue Statement on U.S. Arms Buildup

BK261647 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Eight opposition parties have expressed concern over massive supply of arms to Pakistan, U.S. naval buildup in the Indian Ocean, and induction of nuclear weapons to Diego Garcia. In a statement issued after a meeting of the parties' representatives in Delhi today, they said that all the activities pose a threat to the security of India which has been playing a very important role for world peace. Representatives of the Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India-Marxist, Democratic Socialist Party, Revolutionary Socialist Party, Congress-S, Congress-J, Forward Bloc,and the Janwadi Party attended the meeting.

Venkataraman on Border Defense Vigilance

BK260949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, says India cannot ignore the changing situation on the borders which seriously threatens its security. He was addressing Army jawans [soldiers] at (Bakhama) near Kohima yesterday. Mr Venkataraman said the massive induction of sophisticated arms into our neighborhood is a matter of great concern. He called upon the defense forces to maintain a constant vigilance.

INDIAN EXPRESS on Protecting Defense Information

BK251355 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Dec 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Only More Vigilance"]

[Text] Every country, including India, indulges in espionage. The United States is by no means the only country spying on India. An additional private secretary of the former external affairs minister was arrested in 1977 for passing on secrets to the Soviet Union. An officer of the Central Information Service was caught passing information to Romania. Pakistan spies are arrested year after year.

What is disconcerting about the latest U.S.-linked spy ring is that one member was a retired air vice marshal, another (his brother) a retired major-general, and yet another was a retired lieutenant colonel. Officers of this rank carry a lot of secret information in their heads even without access to any fresh papers. They may continue to be active in the social circuit, using their former position and contacts to extract information from unsuspecting officers still in service. They have enjoyed access to the Defence Ministry library, which gives them entry and acceptability even if it does not bristle with classified information. It has been decided that in future specific permission will be needed for retired officers to use the library. There is clear need to tighten up on security at all levels.

According to one report, the attempt on the part of the Larkins brothers to bribe a serving officer to hand over an IAF [Indian Air Force] manual took place as long ago as April 5. But the brothers were arrested only in November. Why was there such a long gap? According to a report, one brother was on the point of emigrating to Australia when apprehended.

Another trend that needs watching is the induction of retired military officers as representatives of foreign arms manufacturers or middlemen for arms dealers. This can be perfectly above board and honourble. But it could be a means of ferreting out information pertaining to weapons and equipment purchases and replacements for industrial and commercial reasons and sometimes serve as a conduct for espionage. The latest episode should engender greater vigilance all round.

AFP: Traffic Resumed Between Pakistan, Afghanistan

BK231800 Hong Kong AFP in English 1716 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 23 (AFP) — Traffic resumed between Pakistan and Afghanistan today after a four-day suspension following the capture of the main Afghan customs post by the Moslem rebels, informed sources in Peshawar said. The Gumrak check post, 50 meters (yards) from the border, was captured by guerrillas Sunday. Kabul lodged a protest with Islamabad yesterday, accusing Pakistani border police of helping the rebels in their clashes with government troops. The sources said, however, that the guerrillas agreed to withdraw on the advice of Pakistani authorities.

Normal traffic on the main land route today when four trucks crossed the border to reach Landi Kotal town in Pakistan, the sources said. They said the 500-strong government contingent that had come to fight the guerrillas had returned to the Afghan garrison town of Jalalabad and that local militia had begun repair work on the post, which has been burned down.

Spokesman Rejects Afghan Claims on Aid to Rebels

BK241730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman today categorically rejected the allegation by the Kabul regime that Pakistani personnel had assisted the mujahidin in their recent action against a post inside Afghanistan near Towr Kham. The spokesman said it was a well-known fact that resistance throughout the length and breadth of Afghanistan was an indigenous freedom struggle being carried on by the heroic Afghan people. The repetition of baseless allegations of Pakistan's involvement was only a device to misrepresent the true nature of this struggle.

The spokesman emphasized that Pakistan had consistently adhered to its policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states, including Afghanistan. Pakistan remains committed to finding a peaceful political solution of the Afghan problem based upon principles that have been repeatedly endorsed by the international community in the United Nations, the Islamic conference, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Zia Comments on Elections, Relations With India

BK241034 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that the program announced by him on 12 August will be strictly implemented to ensure the establishment of an Islamic shoora-i-nizam [system of Islamic advisory council] in the country. Talking to newsmen at the Lahore airport last night, the president said this system of government will be based on Islamic principles under which only virtuous and right-thinking people will come forward to serve the nation. He said if anyone thinks the future system of government will be based on any type of Western democracy, he is mistaken. Replying to questions about the basic procedure of elections, the president said it has yet not been decided whether the elections will be held on a party or nonparty basis. However, it is his personal view that for achieving good results elections should be held on a nonparty basis first. This is one of the possibilities, he observed.

In reply to a question about a reallocation of seats for the provinces in the national assembly, the president said it has yet to be decided whether the seats should be increased for future elections according to the new census or whether the elections should be conducted on the basis of existing electoral constituencies.

Replying to a question, the president said the purpose of his speech in Multan was to clarify that he is committed to the program he announced. There is flexibility in this program, but he will give full consideration to establishing only Islamic shoora-i-nizam in the country. He said there will be no restrictions on anyone in contesting the elections provided he meets the required qualifications and conditions. However, he clarified that the people in the previous government, who were responsible for creating conditions which sparked a movement leading to the imposition of martial law, will not be allowed to play with the fate of the people. The people who were responsible for chaos and disorder in the previous government will not be given a second chance, he added.

When asked to comment about filing a reference in the court against the defunct Pakistan People's Party, the president said he has still not done anything in this regard.

On the question of normalizing relations with India, the president said the atmoshphere is now conducive to continuing the negotiations. It has been his endeavor to maintain a good and congenial atmosphere, he added.

DAWN on Multan Remarks

GF261326 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Dec 83 p 2

[Excerpts] Multan, Dec 21: President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq today reiterated his firm resolve to implement his Aug 12 plan and transfer power to an elected government which ensured continuity of process of enforcement of nizam-i-Islam [Islamic system] in the country.

He said March 1985 was the time-limit which he has set to complete all stages of election process, but added that there was flexibility in the plan as he did not consider it a divine gospel.

The president was addressing a mammoth public meeting at Qasim Bagh here.

He said as a result of election, Islamic system of shoora [assembly] and not a Western system would be inducted in Pakistan which was created in the name of Islam.

He said power would be transferred in an Islamic way to an elected government which was capable of safeguarding integrity, solidarity and ideology of the country.

President Zia said democracy would be restored but this democratic system would be based on Islamic values and an elected

assembly would be named majlis-i-shoora reflecting Islamic concept of consultation and not aping the Western system.

The president said he and his colleagues had never denied the need for politics, elections, democracy and a representative government.

"We, however, want that mistakes of the past are not repeated. The country is not pushed once again to chaos and disorder and its solidarity and ideology are not endangered," the president remarked.

The president said he and his colleagues had always considered themselves as servants of the people and would continue to serve them with the blessing of God and trust and support of the people till such time as power was transferred to an elected government.

The people said that martial law had been prolonged and his government has ruled for over six years, the president said, and added that he, too, has the same view. "But nobody can blame us that we have earned any illegitimate wealth and played with the honour and prestige of the country," he observed.

President Zia said he and his colleagues would not allow any deviation from the path of Islam nor would they permit anybody to jeopardise the process of Islamisation.

He said the people had a right to choose anybody to rule over the country. But they must keep in mind the solidarity of the country must be safeguarded and conditions of chaos and conflict were not revived.

Referring to recent movement launched by self-styled MRD, the president said this violent movement was meant to undermine the integrity and solidarity of the country and cause a grevious harm.

He said many people, who had courted arrest, had now realised their mistake and the government, in true Islamic spirit, had forgiven them.

Addressing himself to the followers of the MRD, the president said they must keep in mind that his government would not relinquish anything under pressure.

The president emphatically declared that his government was determined to maintain law and order and save the country from chaos and confusion.

Pointing out to the huge crowd, he remarked: "If I enjoy your support as you have demonstrated today, I have nothing to worry."

He said he and his colleagues would fulfil their responsibility with honor, dignity and honesty.

Posing a number of questions to the people regarding future shape of politics in the country, the president asked: "Do you want me to leave the process of Islamisation at the mercy of anti-Islamic forces? Would you like that power be handed over to those who are prepared to put at stake the integrity and solidarity of the country at the behest of their foreign masters?"

MRD Reportedly Adopts New Strategy

GF261148 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] Lahore, Dec. 20 — The MRD is believed to have evolved a "new strategy" with a view to accelerating the pace of its current campaign which the opposition leaders think is progressing satisfactorily. The new strategy is likely to be made public in about a week.

The Central Committee of the nine-party opposition alliance met in Lahore in the second week of this month to review the movement launched on August 14, and resolved to try tactics not used so far. The new strategy will mark a departure from the traditional methods of expressing political dissent.

Malik Mohammad Qasim, acting secretary general of the MRD, told *DAWN* that the alliance had taken certain decisions regarding its current campaign. "I can't give you details, but let me assure you that the new methods we intend to adopt will be entirely peaceful. We do not believe in violence. Our campaign for the restoration of democracy is proceeding well. The people of Sind in particular have shown rare courage, and let no one under-rate the MRD," he said.

Malik Qasim was of the view that during the movement all peaceful means were adopted to convince the government and the people that the present political impasse was detrimental to national interests. "If the people think we have not been able to convince the government even now, then it is most unfortunate for the country," he added.

Delhi: Agitation Called Off

BK260900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] In Pakistan, the nine-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy has called off its 5-month-old antigovernment agitation which reportedly claimed 60 lives.

The acting secretary general of the MRD, Mr Malik Mohammad Qasim, told newsmen in Karachi today that supporters of the movement have been asked to stop courting arrest. He said the movement will, however, continue to hold meetings and rallies to demand the lifting of martial law, restoration of the 1973 Constitution, and holding of general elections.

NDP Leaders Vow Not To 'Bargain on Principles'

GF261152 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Dec 83 p 16

[Text] Karachi, Dec 22 — The defunct NDP (National Democratic Party), as a coalescing party of the MRD, abides by the four-point founding declaration and, as always, remains in the vanguard of every democratic movement.

This was stated by Hajj Sher Khan and Mr Sohail Akhtar Malik, acting president and acting secretary-general, respectively, of the NDP while talking to newsmen at the Karachi Press Club today

They explained that they had to meet the newsmen "hurriedly" to remove confusion caused by reports published in a section of the press regarding meetings of government functionaries with Khan Abdul Wali Khan in the Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar.

Mr Wali Khan, or for that matter, any other NDP leader would not bargain on principles, they emphasised, saying that earlier offers to the NDP to form a government were spurned. In the same way, the NDP leaders, involved in the Hyderabad tribunal case, had not submitted to pressure or cajolery.

Hajj Sher Khan and Mr Sohail said that Mr Wali Khan, whom they met in the Peshawar hospital recently, had expressed his decision to defy order regarding his detention whenever he got an opportunity. "How, therefore, could any understanding be reached between him (Mr Wali Khan) and the NWFP governor," they asked?

They told a questioner they could not vouchsafe the veracity of statements attributed to Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Mr Abid Zuberi, who are currently lodged in jail.

They made it clear that the NDP would not take part in election held on a non-party basis.

In reply to a question, they said that about 4,000 NDP workers had courted arrest during the MRD movement. Breakup of these arrests is: NWFP, 2,500; Punjab, 1000; Sind and Baluchistan, 200 each.

Papers on Interrogations of Al-Zulfiqar Members

20 Dec DAWN

GF231318 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Dec 83 p 10

[Text] Ayaz Samoo, the alleged killer of Zahoorul Hasan Bhopali,during interrogation by police, disclosed that half a dozen groups are being trained in Kabul under different names for subversive activities in Pakistan.

Ayaz Samoo, who belongs to Al-Zulfiqar, said that his group is one of the six groups which are reportedly being trained for terrorist activities.

Ayaz further disclosed that the training is being supervised by the Afghan Army. He said that the recruits are being paid by some covert organisation in Afghanistan.

Jamshed Quarters Division Police conducting investigation in Zahoorul Hasan Bhopali murder case, will submit a charge within a week against the alleged killer Ayaz Samoo, in the special military court, informed sources said on Monday here.

Ayaz Samoo who was arrested recently by the police had reportedly confessed before a magistrate that he killed Bhopali. The sources said accused Ayaz Samoo had never travelled on passport but he had always crossed the Pakistan border.

Meanwhile, Gulshan-i-Iqbal police have registered a case against the five other accused arrested for providing shelter, aiding and helping Ayaz.

The five accused are Sadiq Umrani, Zahid, Noor Mohammad, Maula Bux and Ashfaq.

22 Dec NAWA-E WAQT

GF261110 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 22 Dec 83 p 1

[By special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Rawalpindi 21 Dec — Shaukat Ali Rizvi, the alleged Al-Zulfiqar member who was arrested in Islamabad, has revealed that this organization wanted to conduct certain subversive operations in Rawalpindi and Islamabad but could not obtain the necessary arms.

According to the accused, alias Shauki, he is a resident of Gujranwala's Deedar Singh District and has studied through high school. He held many meetings at his house in Tand T colony [residential area for postal employees] until the time of his arrest and discussed these subversive operations. Police officials are interrogating those who attended these meetings; many areas in Islamabad were raided for this purpose. As a result of the interrogations, more raids were conducted in Gujranwala, Qasur, and Karachi.

NAWA-E WAQT on Soviet Charge's Remarks

GF231148 Rawalpindi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 10 Dec 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Soviet Union Versus Islamic World's Demand"]

[Excerpts] The Islamic foreign ministers have vociferously demanded that the Soviet Union unconditionally withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and restore the country's freedom, nonaligned status, and Islamic character and that the Afghan people must be given the right to choose their own government and conditions should be created whereby the more than 4 million Afghan refugees abroad can return to their homeland in safety and with dignity.

Once more it has been proved that the Islamic world views the presence of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan with great concern and apprehension. But even before this, the resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement and the UN General Assembly have passed similar resolutions which have proved to be ineffective voices in the wilderness.

The Soviet stance in this context has been very clearly stated by Mr Vladimir G. Beliaev, Soviet charge d'affaires in Pakistan, in an interview with the *NAWA-E WAQT* correspondent on the day when the Islamic foreign minister conference began in Dhaka. He stated in clear terms that the Afghan issue has been further complicated by the Geneva talks. According to him, the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan is the private bilateral concern of the two countries and it would be to the advantage of Pakistan to adopt a realistic attitude and enter into direct talks with

Afghanistan. The Soviet diplomat's statement is a challenge not only to Pakistan but to the Islamic world, because the decision to refuse to recognize the Soviet-installed Karmal government as the legal and rightful government of Afghanistan had been made at a meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers. And now, it is time for concrete action instead of passing a resolution at Dhaka. This is a proof of the modus operandi and opinion expressed by the host country's head of state, President General Mohammad Ershad, at the opening of the conference. He said: "The Islamic world has been dubbed ineffective and helpless." But the conference in Dhaka which lasted for 5 days and was marked by vociferous speeches and resolutions and proved just this, that "the Islamic world is great and yet not so great!"

Majlis Speaker on Arab World Developments
LD232259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Second sermon delivered during Friday prayers on 23 December at Tehran University by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani — recorded]

[Excerpts] During the past 2 weeks, you heard reports that the Israelis went to the United States and then announced that a strategic treaty had been signed by the United States and Israel whereby the United States undertakes to safeguard Israel and Israel undertakes to safeguard U.S. interests in the area — against the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Republic, and the movement of the Muslims.

If such a thing had happened at any time during the past 50 to 60 years it would have been sufficient to exacerbate the Arab region like a spark hitting a powder keg. Unfortunately, we see here that a report of such importance was released and the governments of a great many Arab countries did not even bat an eye because they were expecting it; they welcomed the whole thing.

Now I would like to ask these people: Is this U.S.-Israeli agreement less important than the Balfour Declaration? When a superpower such as the United States — which has representatives and a presence in all your locations and while you are doing your utmost to serve its interests — shows all this support for your enemy Israel while thumbing its nose at you, could you not protest as much as you did with regard to the Balfour Declaration? I am amazed. I am more amazed at the nations. Why is it that those nations who have demonstrated for 66 years against that sinister declaration have not said a single thing against their governments in regard to this big news, and why have they not rallied at these palaces in order to pour dust into the palaces and to say: What manner of treason have you committed against the Arab world! The opposite has happened.

This is very ugly, but worse still — although this is very good for us from the standpoint of clarifying the situation despite its calamitous consequences — is the fact that the Iraqi Government, the Iraqi Ba'thists, since 1967 — that is, some 13, 14, or 15 years ago, when their relations with the United States were severed — kept issuing anti-imperialist slogans for 15 years. Just now, when Israel and the United States have concluded this agreement, the Iraqis have announced: We are ready to improve relations with the United States. What is this? This is tantamount to thumbing one's nose at the entire nation, thumbing one's nose at Palestine, thumbing one's nose at the blood of the martyrs of Palestine, trampling underfoot the bodies of the Palestinian martyrs. Every form of malignancy and rascality can be seen in this deed.

This has revealed the nature of the Ba'thist Party, which is of some value, but one we would rather have done without. It brings black shame on the Islamic nations, when a country next to the tomb of Imam Husayn and the grave of 'Ali ibn Abi Talib issues all these lying slogans and then at the worst possible time announces: "We are friends with the USA!" They receive that special envoy of Reagan's with such welcome and with such respect and then they issue a joint communique!

Such abominations are truly a cause for sadness for our Islamic community and for this very reason our duty is extremely onerous. The duty of the nations is an extremely onerous and sensitive one, as they should break these talismans, they should cast away these reactionary bullying criminals who are trampling under foot the sanctities of the revolution, the sanctities of the Arabs, the sanctities of Islam, the blood of the Palestine martyrs, and the blood of all these Muslim troops who have so far been killed on the fields of battle against Israel. And worse still — one would rather not mention this — is the fact that the PLO itself goes to Egypt and says: It would be iniquitous if we were to say that Husni Mubarak should now leave the Camp David accord. Iniquitous people! You have broken relations for many years saying that Sadat betrayed Arab aspirations. How come this inquity, how come this iniquity all of a sudden?

King Husayn, the murderer of the Palestinians and the wretched hero of Black September, today becomes the sincere friend of the leaders of the PLO!

All this shows that extremely mysterious happenings are taking place in the Islamic world to which the Muslims should pay attention and to which they should wake up. The Islamic Republic is bearing this standard in the name of the most noble prophet and is surging forward and is bearing all the difficulties of this path. [chants of God is great] And we are paying the penalty for fighting these evil happenings. The people of Ramhormoz, Dezful, Andimeshk, Behbehan, and Nahavand were hit by missiles because of other Muslim people who are called Islamic Jihad, who are not dissimilar to the Islamic Republic in name, some of whom have said: We support the Islamic Republic. They blew up the U.S. Embassy there and blew up the French den of corruption there, and we should be hit by missiles because of them!

You know what happened in Ba'labakk yesterday. More than 10 F-16 Israeli aircraft came to the very place where 2 or 3 weeks ago France bombarded the people of Ba'alabakk and spewed out 45 big bombs near the city of Ba'alabakk. Of course, God protected and during this heinous crime in which we got no support except from the people and a little from the Syrians, one of our dear children was martyred and 10 or 11 were wounded as a result of that tremendous attack. Fortunately, immediately afterward, Lebanese youths responded to these crimes and so blew up the staff headquarters of the French forces and the Lebanese Phalangists and they inflicted 10 times more casualties on them. [loud applause] [end recording]

[Announcer] Tehran's ad interim Friday imam, continuing his second prayer sermon, addressed the meek people of the world and Muslims: All the anti-arrogant forces throughout the world should know that coming to grips with the arrogant entails difficulties and hardships. We have proved to you that the breast of the Islamic Republic constitutes a shield against these calamities and problems. We are prepared to cooperate everywhere in this matter.

Addressing the governments and other people whose interests are being threatened in this course of events, he said: We are not bent on creating crises and tension, as demonstrated by our logic. Therefore, do not accuse us of fomenting terrorism. By stagemanaging things in Turkey and here and there they should not think that they could thereby accuse the Islamic Republic and portray it as breeding terrorists. France and the United States breed the most terrorists, terrorists who blew up the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party and thus martyred 72 people. They martyred our prime minister and president by exploding the Prime Ministry office and tossed bombs among the people during the Friday prayers and in the streets. You who are nurturing the world's worst terrorists and who are sitting beside the Elysee Palace, and are nurturing terrorists with money from France, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait — why do you criticize terrorists?

Today the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran exposes your crimes in 20 languages and awakens the Muslim nations, so you have no chance to work secretly. If you people want to play with fire, the people have nothing much to lose and wherever a bomb explodes at least its shrapnel will hit you too.

Help From Syria Noted

LD232007 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Tehran, Dec 23, IRNA — One Iranian was martyred in Wednesday's air raid near Ba'alabakk, Lebanon, and 10 or 11 others were wounded, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today.

Ten Zionist air force F-16's dropped 45 large bombs in the area where only the people came to help, except for a little help from Syrians, he told thousands of people here in this week's Friday prayers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Lebanese Muslims

LD261106 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26 IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday said that the Lebanese Muslims always remained under severe pressures and "now Islam is the only hope for them."

Addressing the officials from the Ministry of Education and a group of students' parents Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Lebanese Shias belonged to the deprived class compared to other class of that country including Phalangists and Druze.

He said that (?Lebanese) [word indistinct] had no other support but the masses of that country. He said the Lebanese Muslims were now under pressures of the foreign forces of the United States, France, Britain, Italy and others. But he pointed out, "Islam is the only light for the Lebanese Muslims." "The Lebanese Muslims were not afraid of the presence of the forces of the United States, Italy, France and Britain on the Lebanese coasts, he said, adding that despite the fact that those Muslims had no other support except Islam and the Islamic Republic.

Referring to the accusation of the enemy of Islam that Iran committed act of terrorism he said, "We do not need such actions as our all hopes are from Muslim youths in Lebanon, Iraq and other parts of the world."

Coming to the students issue he emphasised on their training and said, "They should be trained under the system of rich Islamic culture."

Spokesman Denounces 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting

GF261916 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman today denounced the U.S.-imperialist attempts to liquidate the Palestinian goals and to return the ruling regime in Egypt — which by signing the Camp David accord became the major ally in the region of the United States and the entity that usurped Jerusalem — to the Arab ranks.

Referring to the meeting between 'Arafat and Husni Mubarak, the leader of the ruling regime in Egypt, in Cairo recently, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Islamic Iran cannot hide its extreme regret over the recent move by the PLO leadership to facilitate these conspiracies.

He affirmed that the oppressed people in the region totally reject this step and that they will prevent the revival of the Camp David by such measures.

Iranians in Paris Arrested, Diplomats Expelled

LD241744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] In the wake of the steps taken by the Socialist-Zionist French Government against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the arrest of student members of the Islamic Institute in Paris, the French police yesterday stormed the home of an Iranian Embassy employee in Paris and arrested him in a savage manner in front of his pregnant wife. He was then taken to an unknown destination. Up to this time, nothing is known about his fate. Simultaneously with this action by the French police, six student members of the Islamic Institute were also arrested.

Furthermore, without giving any reason, the officials of the Socialist-Zionist French Government today asked three official Islamic Republic Embassy employees in France to leave France within 24 hours.

Cabinet Reacts

LD251158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The Cabinet, chaired by President Khamene'i, met this morning and discussed the country's current affairs as well as regional developments. Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi gave an interview to our correspondent afterward, in the course of which he explained the topics raised at the meeting

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We initially discussed some political developments. We then raised France's egregious, unethical, and even criminal actions against Iranian (?diplomats) and our dear Muslim students. We discussed in our meeting the fact that currently France is earnestly supporting terrorist policies in the world. What France is now engaged in cannot be construed as anything other than escalating (?terrorism) in the world, supporting international terrorism, and helping the enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

You know who is enjoying France's support and what policies are being pursued by France throughout the world. The collusion between France, America, and Zionism in Lebanon against Muslims is part and parcel of France's foreign policy [words indistinct]. Moreover, France's activities in Iraq and [word indistinct] Arab countries constitute another aspect of the same policies.

Naturally, such policies pursued by France will serve no purpose other than endangering France's interests throughout the world vis-a-vis other nations and Muslims. Meanwhile, when a country adopts criminal policies, particularly toward a 1-billion-strong Muslim nation throughout the world, then it must expect the consequences of such policies.

As for what concerns us, the Islamic nations make judgments about their relations; the same thing applies to the Lebanese nation. This is what is being raised by our Foreign Ministry currently. At present, the Foreign Ministry is engaged in reviewing the issue so that we may respond to such acts and expel some French diplomats from Iran. Obviously, this will put our relations with France at their lowest ebb.

Musavi Responds

LD251123 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 25, IRNA — The Islamic Republic will expel "a number" of French diplomats from Iran in retaliation for the French expulsion of three Iranian diplomats in Paris, Prime Minister Musavi said today.

"Naturally this would bring the relations between the two countries to the lowest possible level," he said.

Speaking after a cabinet meeting, Musavi said the French Government's policy in collaborating with the United States and the Zionist regime against Muslims in Lebanon and its activities in favour of Iraq would only serve to threaten French interests by Muslims throughout the world.

"A country which is following a criminal policy against a nation of one billion (Muslims) should certainly face its consequences," he added.

France announced on Friday the closure of the Iranian cultural centre and the expulsion of three Iranian diplomats in Paris. The French Foreign Ministry said the expulsions were in retaliation for the closure by the Islamic Republic of the French Institute and the French Research Institute in Tehran.

French Expelled

GF251636 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 25, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry today ordered the expulsion of three French Embassy officials on a 24-hour notice.

A ministry official said here today that the decision had been taken in reprisal for the arrest by French police of a number of Iran's embassy officials in Paris last week. He said three Iranian Embassy officials and a number of Iranian students had been subjected to physical brutality by the immigration police in Paris before their eventual expulsion from France yesterday.

In related reports five Iranian students arrested by immigration police in Paris on Friday have been apparently removed to a yet undisclosed prison outside of the city. Another three Iranian students arrested apparently on undeclared charges were to be deported to Tehran aboard an unidentified airliner.

An Iranian Embassy official said in Paris today that the French police and immigration officials have been excercising undue inquisition upon Iranian Muslims in France and that the arrested Iranians were beaten on the first day of their arrest in a Paris prison solely on charges of being Muslims.

Informed sources have observed here that the French Government has arrested the group of Iranians because they were judged to jeopardize the interests of the French Government.

French Official Summoned

LD251656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Following the inhuman and savage act of the French Government against some employees of the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy in Paris and against some student members of the Islamic Association, including assaulting and arresting them, which finally resulted in the deportation of three Iranian diplomats and a number of students from France, the official in charge of the French Embassy in Tehran this afternoon was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was handed the particulars on three French diplomats. He was told that the three diplomats should leave Iran within 24 hours.

Iranian Charge Comments

LD251847 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Following the hostile actions of the Socialist-Zionist Government of France against Muslims and the arrest of seven members of the Islamic Association of Muslims, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy in Paris announced in an interview with IRNA: Up to now, the French officials have not given us any information about our imprisoned brothers. but according to information received from reliable sources, five of the brothers have been taken to a prison outside Paris, the location of which is not known.

Stressing the fact that inquisitions like those in the Middle Ages rule over France, he said: Our dear brothers were severely beaten up on the first day of their imprisonment simply for being Muslim. The French officials have not yet given a specific reason for arresting these people. According to the information received, the charge announced by the French Government for arresting these people is that these brothers have endangered the French Government.

Students Issue Communique

GF260608 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Federation of Islamic Student Unions in Europe, in a communique issued yesterday on the arrest and deportation of Muslim Iranian students in France, has condemned this terrorist action. In one part of this communique, it was said that last Friday the French police savagely attacked and arrested several members of the Islamic Students Organization in Paris which is affiliated with the Federation of the Islamic Stduents Unions in Europe and moved them to an undisclosed location. The French police also deported two Iranian students without justification or legal warrant.

The Federation of Islamic Student Unions of Europe holds the Socialist-Zionist Government of France directly responsible for these criminal acts and announces that such actions will not distract Muslim attention from the illegal presence of France in Lebanon nor from the savage French crimes against Muslims in general.

Diplomats Welcomed

LD261057 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26, IRNA — Three Iranian diplomats in France who had been under police detention, arrived here this morning and were welcomed by a number of officials at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Speaking to IRNA at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, the Islamic Republic's first secretary in Paris Mohammad Ali Dashti, said that such moves by the French Government had been dictated by the U.S.. Of course, he added, France's stand vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic could have been predicted and such reactions could have been expected from the French Government due to its attitude towards the Islamic revolution. In spite of its claims of being neutral, the present Socialist Government of France was trying, more than the previous government, to materialise objectives of U.S. foreign policy, Dashti noted.

Iran's first secretary in France described the attitude of the French Government towards Iranian Muslim students as being dastardly and added that the French police, in its attack to the houses of these Muslim students, had even insulted their wives. Praying for Imam Khomeyni's long life, he hoped for strengthening of the combatant Iranian people to achieve sublime Islamic goals and for the annihilation of the oppressors.

Islamic Guidance Ministry's represenative in Paris, Majid Marshenas also told IRNA that when he and the Iranians [words indistinct] were returning from the cultural centre of the Islamic Republic, were arrested in an insulting manner by the French police. The police, Marshenas added, forcefully and contrary to all international regulations searched their briefcases and after a while released them. Another Iranian diplomat stressed that France's defeats by the Lebanese Muslims had been that country's incentive in taking such retaliatory measures. In order to justify its failure, France had staged an extensive propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran since 10 days ago, the Iranian diplomat said. By spreading false allegations that a so-called terrorist group had arrived from Iran to commit massacres and thus blur Christmas festivities, France attempted to attribute to Iran the recent anti-France movements in various parts of the world, the diplomat said. He added that after staging the propaganda, France embarked on other measures including the arrest of a number of Iranian Muslim students, closure of the cultural centre of the Islamic Republic, and expulsion of three Iranian diplomats from there.

He noted that in spite of the announcement of the French External Relations Ministry alleging that the three Iranian diplomats were expelled in connection with the closure of Iran's cultural centre, two of the three had nothing to do with the centre.

Foreign Ministry Summons Phillipine Charge

LD261833 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Phillipines charge d'affaires in Tehran this morning was summoned to our country's Foreign Ministry. During this meeting, the director-general of cultural affairs of the Foreign Ministry requested the immediate release of students jailed by the Philippine Government in that country. He also objected to the Phillipine Government's continuing to treat Iranian students, called Zarbeh, in such a manner.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,582

LD231744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,582 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Fire exchanges and limited clashes continued yesterday on the border fronts of our country's northwestern region. Our combatants opened fire on enemy positions and supply axes. As a result of our forces' fire in the (Chuman Mustafa) sector, movements of the enemy's light and heavy vehicles were halted. Our forces on the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, by continuous observation and dispatching patrol groups, controlled all enemy operations. A number of enemy vehicles came under the fire of the forces of Islam along the supply axes in the region opposite Qasr-e Shirin, (Dasht-e Zahab), and Sumar; the Saddamist forces suffered losses and casualties.

Fire exchange continued on the southern fronts yesterday and was more intense in the (Zeyd) and (Chazzabeh) sectors. Our combative forces in the operational theater of Abadan and Khorramshahr opened fire on enemy positions on the western side of the Arvand Rud, destroying nine slit trenches, foxholes, observation posts, and several vehicles of the aggressors. A number of Saddamists were either killed or wounded.

Enemy long-range heavy artillery fire on the residential districts of Abadan yesterday damaged four houses.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,583

LD241802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,583 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation at the fronts of the imposed war hereby is brought to the attention of the dear compatriots. Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued yesterday on the Piranshahr and Marivan fronts between the powerful forces of Islam and the mercenary Ba'thists of Iraq. The intensity of these exchanges was heavier on the (?Kadu) Heights and 2,519 Heights compared with other fronts. Our forces returned enemy fire enemy by opening fire on their positions, motorized columns, and supply points— thus silencing their fire and preventing their movements and activities. Damage and casualties inflicted on the enemy in the Piranshahr region include the complete destruction of three vehicles and the deaths of a considerable number of enemy soldiers.

In the Marivan region, while destroying more than six trenches and observation posts of the Saddamist forces, our forces inflicted damages on a number of their vehicles, and several enemy soldiers were killed. Also on one of the Marivan fronts, one fortified battalion of the Iraqi forces, backed by artillery and tank fire, embarked on a series of offensives. However, the victorious forces of Islam stopped enemy operations and the fierce reaction of our combatants forced the aggressive enemy forces to flee. Heavy damages and casualties were inflicted on the Iraqisin this operation.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam and on the southern fronts, exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire between our forces and that of the enemy continued and the powerful forces of Islam, maintaining their complete control over the region and guarding their defensive positions, kept an eye on all enemy efforts to fortify their positions and to provide supply to units and on their troop movements. While preventing enemy operations, our forces inflicted damages and casualties on the enemy, set fire to their defensive positions, and killed or wounded a number of enemy personnel.

In the exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the courageous personnel of the Navy and the combatants of the Gendarmerie opened fire on infantry, artillery positions and other fortifications of the enemy, silenced the fire of the Iraqi forces, destroyed three enemy observations posts, and set fire to and destroyed more than six foxholes and slit trenches of Saddamist mercenaries. A number of enemy personnel were killed.

Yesterday, like the days before, the city of Abadan came under artillery and long-range weapons fire by the Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq, which resulted in some damages.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,584

LD251758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,584 of Joint Staff Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Exchanges of fire continued yesterday between the powerful forces of Islam and the coward forces of Saddam in the operational regions of Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, and Hajj 'Umran. Enemy fire was silenced by our units and the movements and activities of Iraqi foces were halted. Also, while inflicting damages and casualties on a motorized column of the enemy, one truck carrying Iraqi soldiers was completely destroyed, and a number of enemy infantry personnel were killed or wounded.

In the operational region facing Marivan, exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued and as a result of our forces fire on the supply routes and positions of the Iraqi forces in (?Bani Benuk) and the heights south of Panjwin, several slit trenches and observation posts and several trucks carrying Iraqi personnel were destroyed and a number of mercenaries were killed.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, exchanges of sporadic fire continued all along the line of contact and the selfless forces of Islam stationed on the line of defense opened artillery and mortar fire on the supply routes and tank and mortar positions of the enemy and inflicted damages and casualties on the Iraqi forces. Our forces stopped enemy troop movements and activities.

In the Qasr-e Shirin region, an enemy patrol group attemptedto infiltrate our positions, but after a rather fierce confrontation with our forces suffered casualties and was forced to flee.

On the southern fronts yesterday, the combative forces of Islam, while fortifying and establishing their positions, continued to defend the regions under their protection and by dispatching patrol groups, establishing observation posts, and opening fire on enemy gathering points, and the fortifications of the Ba'thist forces, halted enemy activities and killed or wounded more than 16 mercenaries. In the operational regions of Abadan and Khorramshahr, the exchanges of fire continued as a result of which several enemy foxholes and slit trenches, one excavation vehicle, and one fuel tank were destroyed.

As a result of long-range weapons fire, the enemy inflicted damages on six houses and shops in Abadan.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,585

LD261852 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,585 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Artillery and heavy weapons exchanges continued yesterday between the combatants of Islam and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on the Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, and Marivan operational fronts. While reinforcing their defensive positions and engaging in defensive operations, the combatants of Islam opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on enemy communication routes and supply centers, silencing enemy fire and disrupting enemy supply operations. In the Piranshahr region, our fighters inflicted 30 percent damage on a supply bridge of the forces of Saddam. They also killed more than 40 enemy infantry personnel while setting fire to and destroying 12 of their trenches.

In the Marivan region, our forces killed or wounded a number of enemy personnel and destroyed or damaged some light and heavy vehicles of the Iraqi mercenaries. They also smashed a number of Iraqi positions on various defensive lines. On all these fronts, the combatants of Islam neutralised all activities of the Iraqi air forces. The movement of an enemy patrol, which intended to infiltrate the defensive positions of our forces in the Panjwin region, was discovered and the enemy patrol was forced to flee as the result of our forces fire.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts and in the southern fronts, the sporadic exchange of heavy weapons fire continued between our forces and the enemy. While defending their positions, the combatants of Islam responded to Iraqi fire by opening fire on enemy infantry, tank, and artillery positions. In so doing, they inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy. The losses inflicted on the Saddamist mercenary forces on the western fronts included the destruction of more than five heavy weapons bunkers, a number of foxholes, two vehicles, and one 106-mm gun.

On the southern fronts, the exchange of fire in the Shalamcheh area was more intense than on other fronts. On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the heroic forces of the Navy and the Gendarmerie responded to enemy fire on the other side of the Arvand Rud, silencing enemy fire and disrupting the operational and engineering activities of the Saddamist forces.

The losses suffered by the enemy in the area under the protection of the heroic forces of the Navy included the destruction of four slit trenches and observation posts.

At 1832 last night, the criminal Saddamist forces, with a missile attack on Masjed Soleyman, martyred or wounded a number of our dear compatriots and destroyed a large number of residences.

Abadan again yesterday came under the artillery and long-range weapons fire of the Saddamist mercenaries. As a result, one school and a number of houses were damaged.

(Signed) Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Majlis Speaker on Masjed Soleyman Missile Attack

LD260956 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 26 IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday said that the long-range missile attack on Masjed Soleyman, Khuzestan province proved that the regime in Baghdad attached no importance to the international organisations.

Speaking in an open session of the Majlis he said the Iraqi attack occurred at a time when the representatives of the International Red Cross were visiting the areas which were earlier attacked by the Iraqi forces with heavy life and property losses on the part of the Iranian defenceless civilians.

A total of 18 civilians were martyred, 92 wounded and about 100 houses were damaged during the Sunday evening attack of Masjed Soleyman, according to the reports reached here at 0700 a.m. Monday.

This crime (missile attack against Masjed Soleyman) could have possibly committed in connection with the move of Lebanese Muslims and upon instructions of Iraq's master, he said.

The Majlis speaker expressed condolences to the people of Masjed Soleyman and also praised the spirit of their resistance. He, however, assured the people of that city of suitable reply to the enemy on the war front by the Islamic combatants.

Majlis, Assembly Elections Set for 11 February

LD242033 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24 (IRNA) — Elections for the second session of the Majlis and by-elections for the Assembly of Experts will take place on February 11, 1984, Ayatollah Taheri said in Esfahan. The daily *ETTELA'AT* in a report today quoted the ayatollah as saying that the election date was set after the gathering of Friday prayer leaders in Qom and meetings with Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Montazeri. Ayatollah Taheri is the Friday prayer leader of Esfahan and Imam Khomeyni's representative in Esfahan Province.

Khomeyni Asks Mahallati To Take Over Taheri Duties

LD241240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, issued the following command to Fazlollah Mahallati, the imam's representative at the Islamic Revolution Guards

Corps: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Sheykh Fazlollah Mahallati, my representative at the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps: Since His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Taheri intends to go on a trip, will you take over all his responsibilities at the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in addition to your own responsibilities? It is obvious that all the personnel and commanders of the Guards Corps and basij [mobilization forces] are dutybound to cooperate and to support your excellency. I beseech Almighty God to grant you success in serving Islam and the Islamic Republic.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 24 December 1983

Radio Iran Report

GF241910 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] After a week's silence, the news of the stripping of Mullah Taheri Ruhollah's deputy in the Revolution Guards' Corps of his privileges has been announced and in the order issued by Khomeyni, Fazlollah Mahallati has been asked to assume all powers in the Guards Corps. The removal of Taheri from the Guards Corps is a sign of the power struggle which is in full swing in all departments of this organization.

Radio Iran: Guards Expected To Control Ministries

GF261034 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The revolution guards are expected to penetrate all the departments and ministries of the Islamic Republic and to take over administrative positions. According to nationalist sources from within the Commerce Ministry, after designation of one Ja'fari as minister of commerce, several members of the higher cadres in that ministry have been removed and have been replaced by members of the Revolution Guards Corps.

This new administrative cadre, which controls spare parts imports for small cars, has already launched a vast program for a free market in spare parts and is making much money. The report says that the regime is also planning to give the control of food market to those connected with the revolution guards.

Guards Corps Commander Reveals MKO 'Plot'

LD241038 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Kerman, Dec 24, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Reza'i, Friday disclosed a recent plot by the MKO (Mujahideen Khalq Organisation) to disappoint Muslim Iranians.

Giving details, Reza'i said that recently Munafiqeen (MKO) held a gathering in Tehran which was aimed at spreading rumors and thus harm public opinion. But, he added, the plot was thwarted and 100 of the Munafiqeen were arrested. Also, five powerful wireless sets through which direct contacts could be made from Iran with France, Germany, etc., were seized from the plotters.

Speaking at Friday prayers in Zarand, Kerman Province in south of Iran, the IRGC commander warned the people to preserve their vigilance.

Otherwise, he noted, if the superpowers penetrated in the Islamic Iran, there would remain nothing and even the holy places would be destroyed.

Muslim Iranians, due to their responsibility toward Islam, could not remain silent in the face of annihilation of Islam, Muslims, including oppressed people of Lebanon, and holy places by the usurper Zionist regime, Reza'i said.

Reiterating importance of unity among the people, the IRGC commander said that the Islamic revolution could be safeguarded by people paying attention to Islamic values and criteria.

Radio Iran Reports on Killing in Tehran

GF261123 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Yesterday a (?military) official, whose identity has not yet been disclosed, was attacked by armed men in Tehran and was killed. Following the terrorist killing of this official, revolution guards arrived at the spot and began arresting passersby and innocent people. Reports indicate that revolution guards and street patrols arrested some 100 people in connection with the incident.

According to another unconfirmed report, the terrorist killing of this military official had the color of killings by government agents, in which government officials are involved. We remind listeners that since the month of Esfand [20 Februar; to 20 March] last year, dozens of military officials have been arrested and imprisoned under "joint collusion by the Tudeh Party and the Hezb-e Eslami" and are now being tried behind closed doors where no foreign correspondents are allowed. They are charged with treason against the state. In connection with trials of persons connected with the Iranian army, the Tudeh leaders, including Nureddin Kianuri and Mohammad Mahdi Partovi, were admitted to the court as witnesses. They gave evidence against military personnel.

In several cases where the accused denied the charges against them, Nureddin Kianuri and Mohammad Mahdi Partovi refuted their statements, supported the charges against them, and asked for punishment from the court. Death sentences on the army officiers are being passed when so far none of the Tudeh leaders has been tried, although 10 months have passed since their arrests.